

To plant a tree:

- **Prepare the planting hole and soil** - Dig a hole that is 2-3 times as wide as the diameter of the container. Find the trunk flare zone (the area where the stem merges with its root system). Measure from the bottom of the container up to the trunk flare zone, and dig the depth of your hole accordingly.
- **Planting & Filling** - Carefully remove the tree from its container, supporting the root ball. Place the largest branches toward the prevailing winds in your area. Center the tree in the hole and check the hole depth. Cut any circled or kinked roots. With the tree in place, add some soil and firmly pack it around the lower roots by hand. Continue filling and firming the soil 4-6 inches at a time. When the hole is about 2/3 full, add water again and wait for settling. Soil should be firmly packed. Finish off by creating a basin to hold water by building a ring of extra soil around the planting hole. Fill the basin with water.

See the City of Riverside Urban Forest Tree Planting Guide on line at www.riversideca.gov/trees or call 951-826-5311 to request planting information.

Caring For Your Trees:

- **Watering** - Watering your tree is the most important thing you can do. Your new tree will need to be watered independently from your lawn or other groundcover. For the first year, it is recommended that you provide a minimum of 15 gallons a week.
- **Mulching** - If the soil has settled lower than the base of the tree (trunk flare zone) after watering, add soil. Spread a 2-4 inch layer of mulch on the top of the soil in the basin a few inches away from the trunk.
- **Staking** - Unless a tree bends over, it will not need support from staking. If stakes are needed, place them on opposite sides of the tree. In Riverside, because of wind, it is a good idea to place stakes on the east and west sides of the tree. If needed, stakes should be positioned outside the root ball area, but no further than the tree ties can reach. The top of the stakes should be a couple of inches below the lowest main branch. Place tree ties about 6 inches above the spot where the tree bends. The stakes and ties can be removed when your tree can stand securely by itself in an upright position.
- **Pruning** - Generally, your tree will not need pruning during its first two years. The more foliage that remains on the tree, the faster it will grow.

Join us in an effort to create a greener community.

Riverside Public Utilities provides rebates for the purchase of up to 5 trees annually, valued at \$25 each.

An additional **FREE** shade tree coupon can be found in your March Utility Bill too!

Riverside Public Utilities

Programs & Services

3901 Orange Street

Riverside, CA 92501

951-826-5485

www.riversidepublicutilities.com

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Residential Shade Tree Rebate Program & Tree Planting Guide



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Printed on recycled paper

02/08

What is Tree Power?

Tree Power is a public benefit program that offers residential electric customers a rebate for planting selected shade trees around their home.

What are the benefits?

Deciduous trees provide additional shading to help keep a home cooler in the summer while allowing the sun's warming rays through to help heat the home in the winter. Trees also help clean the air, reduce noise and soil erosion.

What is the rebate amount?

Riverside Public Utilities will issue a rebate for the purchase of up to five qualifying shade trees per calendar year. Maximum rebate amount per tree is \$25; however, the rebate cannot exceed the purchase price of the tree.

Program guidelines:

- This program is available to RPU residential electric customers. If applicant is a tenant or renter, the property owner must sign the application.
- Qualifying trees must be purchased from a city of Riverside merchant and planted at customer's service address before applying for a rebate.
- Trees must be planted at customer's service address on the customer's own property. Customers may not plant trees on areas considered city property. Trees must be planted within 10 to 35 feet from the building foundation.
- Once tree(s) are planted, mail your application along with copies of legible, dated sales receipt as proof of purchase to Riverside Public Utilities.
- Planted trees are subject to inspection for program compliance. Customer's failure to permit such inspections shall obligate the customer to repay the amount of the incentive. The incentive amount shall be billed on the customer's regular utility billing from the City.
- Customer must sign liability agreement and agree to the long-term care of the tree.
- Application must be submitted within **ninety (90) days** of receipt purchase date in order to qualify for rebate.
- **Program is subject to change without prior notification. Rebates are given on a first come, first serve basis subject to fund availability.**

Choose your tree carefully:

When choosing a tree to plant, you want to make sure it is one that will thrive in your community. Some trees that thrive in the city of Riverside include: Maidenhair (Ginkgo), Goldenrain, Jacaranda Silk, Chinese Pistache, Redbud (Eastern or Oklahoma), London Plane (Sycamore), Pink Trumpet, and Southern Magnolia.

Plant it in the right place:

- Make sure trees have plenty of room to grow. Avoid conflicts with solar panels, satellite dishes, and roof structures.
- **Do not** plant trees underneath power lines, near water lines, sewer lines, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and/or foundations.
- Plant your trees in natural soil. Poor soil may need conditioners so your tree will continue to thrive and help avoid root problems.



**Before planting, contact the
Underground Service Alert of
Southern California/DigAlert at
1-800-227-2600
or by dialing 811**

T R E E P O W E R R E B A T E A P P L I C A T I O N

Name on Utility Account		Customer Account Number
Service Address	Zip	Telephone Number
Mailing Address (if different)	Zip	Purchase Date

Please complete the following information. If more space is needed, please list items on a separate piece of paper. Failure to provide required information or receipt copies may result in processing delays.

I, the undersigned, agree that any and all trees which I obtain through the Tree Power Rebate Program are my trees and not the City of Riverside's trees. I understand that I will care for the trees and be fully liable for any damage to person or property which may be caused by the planting, maintenance and presence of the trees, or is in any way related to my receipt of the trees under the Tree Power Rebate Program. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Riverside, its officers, employees and agents from any damages related to the trees I receive under the Tree Power Rebate Program.

Merchant(s) Purchased from

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Date Purchased _____

Trees Species Selected

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Date Purchased _____

Applicants Signature

*If Tenant/Renter, property owner must sign application

Date

FOR RPU INSPECTOR

Date Inspected	By
Notes	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

JL Key	6020109080	Object	45603800	Rebate Amount	
Certification of Delivery		Approved for Payment		Approved for Payment	
Signature		Date	Department Head	Date	Finance Department